

206202US3DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :
Hironori FUJIOKA, et al. : EXAMINER:
SERIAL NO: New Application :
FILED: Herewith : GROUP ART UNIT:
FOR: METHOD OF PRODUCING REDUCED IRON
AND PRODUCTION FACILITIES THEREFOR

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified patent
application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before the first line, please insert the following sentence:

--This application is a Division of application Serial No. 09/386,291, filed on August
31, 1999.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-3 and 14-22 without prejudice.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-13 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1-3 and 14-22 having been canceled by way of this Preliminary Amendment.

Examination on the merits of Claims 4-13 and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-Up Copy

Serial No: New Application

Amendment Filed on:

May 4, 2001

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before the first line, please insert the following sentence:

--This application is a Division of application Serial No. 09/386,291, filed on August

31, 1999.--